

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A wire processing apparatus comprising:
a microwave generator for generating microwave;
a waveguide for propagating microwave output from the microwave generator in a transmitting space thereof, the waveguide connected to the microwave generator; and
a wire insertion pipe for inserting a coated wire into the interior thereof, the wire insertion pipe disposed in the transmitting space of the waveguide; and
a short plunger disposed in a terminal end position of the transmitting space of the waveguide,
wherein the short plunger includes a movable plate, a rod connected to the movable plate and a fine adjuster adjusting a length of the rod.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The wire processing apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein by adjusting the length of the rod by means of the fine adjuster to change a position of the movable plate, the wire insertion pipe is disposed at a position away from the terminal end position of the transmitting space of the waveguide by a distance of $(2n-1)/4 \cdot \lambda$ (n: natural number, λ : guide wavelength).

4. (Original) The wire processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wire insertion pipe is made of a dielectric material.

5. (Original) The wire processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coated wire, which is composed of a coating insulator and an electric conductor, is not cross-linked and the coating insulator loosely covers an outer periphery of the electric conductor.

6. (Original) The wire processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the interior of the wire insertion pipe is in hydrogen gas atmosphere.

7. (Original) The wire processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the interior of the wire insertion pipe is in atmospheric atmosphere.

Claims 8-13 (Cancelled)